

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 054866

17

ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05

IGA-01 /057 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:ASKOCHANЕК/LD/RS
APPROVED BY PM/SAS - JONATHAN F. LADD
EA/IMS - MR. GILL
DOD/DSAA - CAPT. CANTACUZENE

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R 112305Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
INFO SECDEF
CNO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054866

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SN, US
SUBJECT: SHIP TRANSFERS

REFS: (A) SINGAPORE 375; (B) STATE 16244

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES POINTS MADE REFTEL A. US POLICY IS TO OFFER FOR SALE VESSELS NOW ON LOAN OR LEASE BUT NOT AT EXPENSE OF THE BETTER RELATIONS THE SHIP TRANSFER PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE. WE WISH, HOWEVER, TO MAKE ONE LAST EFFORT TO SELL THE EX USS HOLMES COUNTY (LST) BEFORE ACTING ON THE QUESTION OF LEASE RENEWAL.

2. IN THIS REGARD, THERE MAY BE A NEW ELEMENT WHICH COULD MAKE GOS MORE AMENABLE TO PURCHASE OF HOLMES COUNTY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SINGAPORE NAVY IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING SOME EXCESS US NAVY COASTAL MINESWEEPERS (MSC). IF COR-
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PAGE 02 STATE 054866

RECT, OUR PROPOSAL WOULD BE TO OFFER THE TWO MSCS FOR SALE

IN CONNECTION WITH SALE OF HOLMES COUNTY. WE BELIEVE CONCEPT OF PACKAGE ARRANGEMENT LIKELY BE OF GREATER INTEREST TO GOS THAN STRAIGHT SALE OF HOLMES COUNTY AND HAS ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF FACE SAVING MECHANISM. (BEGIN FYI. OUR INTENTION IS TO ESTABLISH LINKAGE BETWEEN TWO SHIP TRANSFERS BUT NOT TO GO AS FAR AS TO MAKE GOS PURCHASE OF HOLMES COUNTY A CONDITION FOR SALE OF MSCS. END FYI). SALE OF MSCS AND SALE OR LEASE OF HOLMES COUNTY WILL OF COURSE BE SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF BYRD AMENDMENT. FOR THE VESSELS IN

QUESTION, CONGRESS WOULD HAVE TO BE NOTIFIED AND WOULD HAVE 30 CONTINUOUS DAYS OF SESSION IN WHICH TO COMMENT.

3. BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE SCENARIO OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT GOS IS INTERESTED IN PURCHASE OF THE TWO MSCS. INGERSOLL

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